AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, insert the following heading and sub-heading immediately preceding the paragraph beginning "The present invention relates to...":

BACKGROUND

Technical Field

Page 1, delete the sentence "Aspects of the invention are defined in the claims." in its entirety.

Page 1, insert the following heading immediately preceding the paragraph beginning "Some embodiments of the invention...":

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 1, amend the following sentence:

Figures [[2]] 3 to 16 are further flowcharts explaining the operation of the system in more detail;

Page 1, insert the following heading immediately preceding the term "NODES" at the left margin approximately in the middle of the page:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

Pages 12-13, bridging paragraph:

Figure 6 shows how a node handles incoming Link Added messages. These messages are sent when another node has accepted a link to the receiving node, either in response to a ChangeLink or [[a]] an AddLink message. When the LinkAdded message is received at 600 indicating that a link has been accepted, its status is changed to "confirmed" at Step 601. The link will then be maintained until either it is changed for a new link (in response to a ChangeLink message), or the link is broken.

Page 13, penultimate paragraph:

Figure 9 shows how a node handles incoming Links messages. How it is handled depends entirely on why the corresponding LinksQuery message was sent. This happens for different reasons, as shown amongst others in Figure 3, Figure 4, Figure 5 and Figure 7. So what happens is that when a Links Query Message is sent, it is given a reference that is locally unique and a message handler is associated with the reference. Then, when a Links message is received (900), the appropriate message handler is identified at Step 901 and the message is forwarded at Step 902 to the appropriate message handler so that the message is dealt with in the right way.

Page 36, first line:

Delete "**Claims**" and insert -- WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: --